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10/534,450	05/10/2005	Michael Anthony Pugel	PU030231	4781
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EXAMINER				
PARK, JEONG S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2154				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/534,450

Applicant(s)

PUGEL ET AL.

Examiner

JEONG S. PARK

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/11/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/11/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 8/11/2008, with respect to claims 1-12 and 14-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mason et al (hereinafter Mason)(U.S Patent No. 6,543,051 B1) in view of Pinder (U.S Patent No. 6,112,074).

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 12, Manson teaches as follows:

A system or a method for inserting alert based information (alert message) into broadcast programming over a program distribution network (digital subscriber

television system) comprising (a system for inputting emergency alert messages into a digital subscriber television system, see, e.g., abstract);

A program distributor (application servers, 203 in figure 2) that transmits the broadcast programming (television program) over the program distribution network (broadband network)(MPEG content from the application servers is delivered to a plurality of home communications terminals via a broadband network, see, e.g., col. 2, line 57 to col. 3, line 8);

A network fabric (207, 211 and 220 in figure 2), coupled to the program distributor (application servers, 203 in figure 2), used for transmitting data from the program distributor (QAM modulators, 206 in figure 2, combine the MPEG formatted information from the application servers for delivery as the in-band data, 207 in figure 2, via the transmission medium, 220 in figure 2, see, e.g., col. 3, lines 13-16);

The program distributor (EAS receiver, 105 in figure 3, wherein the application server 203 and EAS 105 and EAC 106 work together as the program distributor) receives the alert based information (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 28-33) and converts the alert from a first format comprising at least one SAME code (SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) is well-known as a subset of EAS, see, e.g., Gropper (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,767 B1) col. 1, lines 11-21) to a second format compatible with the programming broadcasted via the network fabric (EAS 105 converts the text emergency alert message into a text display file compatible with the digital subscriber system, see, e.g., col. 4, lines 52-58 and steps 406 and 410 in figure 4);

The program distributor inserts the converted alert into the broadcast

programming via the network fabric (the converted emergency alert message was sent to the application server at step 414 in figure 4, see, e.g., col. 5, lines 5-6, wherein the application servers distribute the converted emergency alert message with the television program through QAM modulators, 206 in figure 2, with in-band delivery path, 207 in figure 2, see, e.g., col. 3, lines 13-15);

Specifying a region to be alerted by identifying number of counties (the number of counties field specifies the number of the destination counties for the digital emergency alert message, see, e.g., col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2); and

The converted alert is formatted into an MPEG transport packet (the converted emergency alert message was sent to the application server at step 414 in figure 4, see, e.g., col. 5, lines 5-6, wherein the application servers distribute the converted emergency alert message with the television program through QAM modulators, 206 in figure 2, with in-band delivery path, 207 in figure 2, see, e.g., col. 3, lines 13-15) where the packet identifier (PID) in the header of the transport packet identifies the content of the transport packet as being an alert message instead of being at least one of audio information and video information (PID is a 13 bits field indicating the type of the data stored in the packet payload, see, e.g., ISO/IEC 13818-1, Section 2.4.3.3). Therefore it would be obvious to indicate that the stored data is an alert message by using the well-known PID field in the MPEG transport packet.

Pinder further explicitly teaches as follows even though Manson implicitly teaches how to indicate the region to be alerted:

The radio communication system obtains event and locality information, and uses the locality information to transmit the event information to subscribers of that system potentially affected by the event (see, e.g., abstract and figure 3); and

Transmitting the alert information in the form of SAME (a NOAA station broadcasts weather and emergency event information in a digital message using a Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) protocol, see, e.g., col. 2, lines 23-41 and figure 1).

It would be obvious to combine Manson with Pinder in order the system of Manson to leave uninterested geographic region undisturbed and avoid a "Boy Who Cried Wolf" problem for the affected geographic region.

Regarding claim 2, Manson teaches as follows:

The converted alert (generated from EAS and EAC, 105 and 106 in figure 3 respectively and sent to the application server, 203 in figure 2 and figure 3) and the programming broadcasted via the network fabric (transmission medium, 220 in figure 2) are capable of being rendered on at least one of: a display device and an audio based device (the converted message, which was sent from the application servers, 203 in figure 2 and figure 3, and television program are transmitted to the TV, 256 in figure 2, by the HCT, 250 in figure 2, for display to the subscriber, see, e.g., col. 3, lines 19-26).

Regarding claims 3, 8 and 14, Manson teaches as follows:

The alert message received is an audible based message that is converted into data capable of being broadcasted over the network fabric for rendering on an audio

device (emergency alert message with an audio file is converted by EAS, 105 in figure 3, into an audio file compatible with the digital subscriber system which is TV, 256 in figure 2, inherently comprises audio and display devices, see, e.g., col. 4, lines 60-65).

Regarding claims 4, 9 and 15, Manson teaches as follows:

The program distributor adds supplemental information (elements) to the alert based information for broadcast; the supplemental information selected is based on data in the alert based information (the elements associated with an emergency alert message, see, e.g., col. 5, lines 23-29).

Regarding claims 5, 10 and 16, Manson teaches as follows:

The supplemental information selected is determined by the geographic region corresponding to the alert based information (identification code of each county that is to receive the digital emergency alert message in accordance with the FIPS code, see, e.g., col. 6, lines 3-6) and the alert class (event code in table 2) of the alert based information (see, e.g., col. 6, lines 18-28 and table 2).

Regarding claim 6, Manson teaches as follows:

The message name field provides a unique emergency alert message (see, e.g., col. 5, lines 64-65); and

The event code field defines event codes (see, e.g., col. 6, lines 18-28 and table 2).

Therefore, Manson implicitly teaches to include any type of alert message upon request by adding an event code field with a proper message name field to identity the alert message as the alert related to a missing person.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mason in view of Pinder to include an alert related to a missing person.

Regarding claim 11, Manson teaches as follows:

The programming is broadcasted in an MPEG compatible data stream (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 9-11).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEONG S. PARK whose telephone number is (571)270-1597. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:00 - 3:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on 571-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. S. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2154

August 26, 2008

/Joseph E. Avellino/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2146